Key Stage 1 Half Termly Curriculum Overview
Year 2 2026/2027 – Autumn 2

Dear Parents and Guardians, welcome back after the half-term break. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday. I am pleased to provide you with information about the topics and subjects we will be covering during the second half of the Autumn term. Our whole class reading books this half term will include 'Above and Below' by Patricia Hegarty and 'Plop the Owl who was afraid of the dark' by Jill Thomlinson. Kind regards Mrs Thomason and Mrs Birchall.

Catholic life of the school

On Monday morning we begin the week by gathering as a whole school to reflect and pray together. On a Wednesday we do this as a Key Stage. On Friday we have Celebration Assembly when we celebrate the achievements of children from each class.

In class, the children will continue to plan and lead Collective Worship with their teacher on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The children will also attend a variety of school Masses/services, in Church and in school, throughout the year.

The Wednesday Word is available online for each child, every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child.
http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm
During the season of Advent, the children will have the opportunity to give Mary and Joseph a place to stay for the night, with the Travelling Nativity. It will give families a chance to reflect together on the meaning of Christmas and to enjoy some activities together. Our 'ordinary time' prayer bags will stop for Advent.
We are also collecting packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please could you follow the guidance given on the leaflet as to the items that are appropriate/inappropriate to pack. These should be brought into school by Monday 17th November.
We will also do a coin collection for Mary's Meals, a local charity for those in need. Thank you for your support.

Healthy School Initiative

As part of the healthy school initiative, we continue to encourage the children to be active at playtimes and improve their fitness by completing the Daily Mile'. This is done from walking pace to jogging/running pace as each child increases in speed and ability.

Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day; therefore, it is important that the children have their bottles in everyday! It makes it easier for the children if the bottles have a sports top, as it would prevent any unnecessary spillage.
Healthy snacks can be brought into school each day and the children will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes. A piece of fruit will be offered to every child in Key Stage 1 at afternoon playtime.

Information and dates to remember:

WC 2nd Nov: Judaism week.
Fri 6th Nov: Own Clothes Day
Monday 9th to Friday 13th Nov: Anti-bullying Week
Monday 17th to Friday 21 Nov: Road Safety Week
Mon 16th Nov: Operation Christmas Child boxes to be in
Wed 18th Nov: Tempest Photographs
Thurs 26th Nov: Year 5 Class Assembly
Sun 29th Nov: Advent begins
Thurs 9th December: Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production
Friday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 16th December: Christmas Dinner Day
Monday 14th December: Santa Dash
Thursday 17th December: Christmas Mass/Carols, 11am
Friday 18th December: School closes for the Christmas break.

Homework information.

Homework will be set on Google Classroom.

English will be given out on a Friday and is to be handed in the following Tuesday.

Spellings will be given out on a Wednesday and tested the following Monday.

Maths will be given out on a Tuesday and is to be handed in on Friday of the same week.

Reading - Each child should read / share a book for a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete their reading records.

Written homework may sometimes be replaced with online homework on 'MyMaths' or 'TT Rockstars'.

Concerns and messages

If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to speak to me or email me at teachers@socps.co.uk
I will respond to you as soon as I can.

Year 2

General Class Information

Information

This term the children will come to school wearing their PE days: Mondays/ Tuesdays

PE Uniform: white plain t-shirt, royal blue shorts and black trainers (seasonal)

PE Cold weather –navy plain tracksuit tops (no hoods), jogging pants and black trainers will be needed.

P.E will be outdoors if the weather allows. ***Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.***

Speaking and Listening

Talk with your child about things you are doing together. Explain new words and phrases and give your child words to use if s/he is struggling with an explanation. Always encourage your child to ask questions and listen to the answers.

Reading

We have invested heavily in our scheme, for 'Early Reading and Phonics'. The scheme is called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' and is on the Government accredited list for teaching phonics. You can visit their website for more information and look at the parent section, which will show videos of how the children will be taught to pronounce the different letters and sounds.

The children will bring home one or two decodable books, which they can read more fluently and will have practised in school the previous week. Any other book taken home will be a book to share with you reading to or with your child. Please ensure that the decodable book is returned to school on time as other children will be relying on using the book, the following week. (A cost will be incurred for any books that are lost or damaged).

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A reading practice book (Decodable phonic book)

This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

A sharing book (library book)

Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, encourage them to have a go and then read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Please continue to complete reading record books each night, to communicate how your child has read or enjoyed a book with you.

Sharing book

In order to encourage your child to develop their vocabulary and become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

For more information, you can access https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

We look forward to working together, to keep reading a pleasurable experience for all our children and embracing the new scheme as we move forward together.

The school continues to run an early-doors reading and number club 8am – 8:45am each morning. We ask that children are in the club by 8.20am.

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RE –Autumn term topics

Prophecy and Promise

Children will learn about the prophet Isaiah.
We will find out about John the Baptist.
The Annunciation of Mary.
The Birth of Jesus.
Children will know and understand the importance of: Preparing for special times,
Advent the four weeks of preparation for the celebration of Jesus at Christmas.
We will also find out about Judaism as part of our learning from other religions.
Please see the RE newsletter on the school website for more information.

English

Spelling

Pupils will learn to spell by:

- Segmenting spoken words into phonemes and representing these by graphemes, spelling many correctly.
- Learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones.
- Learning to spell common exception words.
- Learning to spell more words with contracted forms.
- Learning the possessive apostrophe (singular) [for example, the girl's book]
- Distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones

Composition

Pupils will learn to develop positive attitudes towards stamina for writing by:

- Writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fiction).
- Writing about real events.
- Writing poetry.
- Writing for different purposes.

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

Pupils should be able to develop their understanding of the following concepts:

- Learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly, including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular).
- Sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command.
- Expanded noun phrases to describe and specify [for example, the blue butterfly].
- The present and past tenses correctly and consistently including the progressive form.
- Subordination (using when, if, that, or because) and co-ordination (using or, and, or but).

Science – Seasonal Changes and micro habitats

Children will learn:

- To observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.
- To observe changes across the four seasons
- To understand the seasonal changes in day length
- To observe the seasonal habits of animals

Micro habitats:
Identify and name a variety of plants and animals.
Recall that minibeasts live in microhabitats.
Describe microhabitats and their conditions.
Describe how microhabitats provide for the basic needs of animals and plants.
Describe the job role of a botanist

Mathematics

Addition & Subtraction

- Solve problems with addition and subtraction: using concrete objects and pictorial representations; applying their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods.
- Recall and use add and subtract facts to 20 fluently and derive and use related facts up to 100.
- Add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations, and mentally, including: a 2-digit no and 1s or 10s; two 2-digit numbers; adding three 1-digit numbers.
- Show that addition of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and subtraction of one number from another cannot.
- Recognise and use the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and use this to check calculations and missing number problems.

Geometry – properties of shapes

- Name and describe 2D and 3D shapes by their properties including number of vertices, faces and edges.
- Compare and sort common 2D and 3D shapes.
- Order and arrange combinations of mathematical objects in patterns and sequences.
- Find the vertical lines of symmetry of simple shapes.
- Describe the position, direction and movement and in terms of right angles.

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Year 2 Curriculum Map

Geography –
Would you rather live in a hot or cold climate?

Children will:

- Name and locate the seven continents on a world map.
- Locate the North and the South Poles on a world map.
- Locate the Equator on a world map.
- Describe some similarities and differences between the UK and Kenya.
- Investigate the weather, writing about it using key vocabulary and explaining whether they live in a hot or cold place.
- Recognise the features of hot and cold places.
- Locate some countries with hot or cold climates on a world map.

Music

Playing in an orchestra – playing together.
What does music teach us about the past?
Children will be:

- Listening to a rhythm and responding
- Learning to sing a song.
- Following a singing leader, knowing when to start and stop.
- Play the glockenspiel and percussion instruments with a song.
- Compose with a song
- Create a graphic score.

We will also be learning songs for our Christmas performance.

PSHE – Relationships

- To learn the skills surrounding managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help as well as recognising hurtful behaviour.
- To recognise the things, we have in common and differences; playing and work cooperatively; sharing opinions

RSE - Journey in Love (Social & Emotional)

- To recognise the joy and friendship of belonging to a diverse community.

DT
A chair for baby bear
Children will learn to:

- Describe how chairs are made for different users and purposes.
- Explain how design briefs and design criteria help when making a new product.
- Name some shapes that are stronger than others.
- Describe how making a material thicker makes it stiffer.
- Understand and use the vocabulary of strong, weak, stiff and flexible.
- Make a stable chair structure for a particular user.
- Select suitable materials and join them securely.
- Evaluate a product against the design criteria.
- Improve parts of a product based on the design criteria.

PE – Social and Dance

This half term the children will be working on their co-ordination:

- Learning static and dynamic balances.
- To work in partnership and explore, circles, shape and artistry in relation to dance.
- Trying several times if at first they don't succeed.
- To help, praise and encourage others in their learning.

Monday and Tuesday are our P.E days.

Please send your child in royal blue PE shorts and plain white t-shirt, under navy outdoor PE jogging pants and a sweatshirt, along with a waterproof warm coat.
** No EARRINGS on PE days please! **

Computing

Children will learn to:

- Recognise the parts of a computer and what they do.
- Begin to use a keyboard efficiently.
- Know what an algorithm is.
- Find out about machine learning.
- Create a simple game
- Debug algorithms

Children will also learn about online safety.

